

# RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## *Quarterly*

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## RUTLAND'S MAYORS



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RECENT MAYORS  
1949-1982

## FOREWORD

The editorial staff and research committee originally intended to produce a Quarterly which would provide a succinct but thorough treatment of the life and administration of each of the mayors of Rutland. Although much research went into the project, the financial and spatial limitations of a single Quarterly quickly indicated that the treatment of each mayor would have to be quite brief.

Each mayor has been considered in a balanced but concise manner. This abbreviated format is used in the hope that it may serve as a stimulus toward a much more detailed publication. The editorial staff gladly will assist anyone interested in the further development of a particular mayor.

Please note that our research files contain more information on most of the mayors.

## INTRODUCTION

In 1892 the village of Rutland in the Town of Rutland became a city. For years its urban nature and concerns had been in conflict with those of the Town surrounding it. In 1886 the marble interests of Proctor and West Rutland led to the separation of each from the Town of Rutland. Now it seemed only logical that the divided portions of the original Town of Rutland would reach a final separation into rural and urban entities.

In 1893 the new city government was launched with the election of officials, including a mayor.

Although originally elected and generally serving only a single one year term on a part time basis, Rutland mayors in more recent years have served multiple two year terms which have required full-time attention. The growth in the scope and responsibility of the position documents the growth and changing character of the City of Rutland.



## RECENT MAYORS FROM 1949-1982

DANIEL J. HEALY	1949-1957; 1959-1961
FRANCIS F. WATERMAN	1957-1959
JOHN J. DALEY	1961-1965; 1981-
HAROLD J. NICHOLS	1965-1971
WILLIAM H. FOLEY, SR.	1971-1973
GILBERT G. GODNICK	1973-1981

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COVER: The mayors of Rutland since 1949 standing in front of City Hall are: left to right, Dan J. Healy, Francis F. Waterman, John J. Daley, Harold J. Nichols, William H. Foley, Sr. and Gilbert G. Godnick.

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**1893 JOHN ABNER MEAD**  
(1841-1920)

Born in Fair Haven — great-grandson of first settler of Rutland — graduate of Middlebury College — Civil War veteran — physician graduated from College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University — president of Baxter National Bank — director of Rutland Railroad — president of Howe Scale Co. — president of John A. Mead Manufacturing Co. — Senator from Rutland County — LATER: Lieutenant Governor of Vermont, 1908 — Governor of Vermont, 1910-1912 — delegate-at-large to National Republican Convention in Chicago, 1912.

**First Mayor**



**John A. Mead**

**Second Mayor**



**Levi G. Kingsley**

**1894 LEVI G. KINGSLEY**  
(1832-1915)

Born in Shrewsbury — family roots in Rutland County back to eighteenth century — stationmaster and freight clerk for Rutland and Burlington Railroad — bought and operated J & A Landon Hardware for 46 years — achieved rank of Major in Civil War — Brigadier General of Vermont National Guard — President of Rutland Village — selectman of Rutland Town — state senator — fire department member — bank director — Kingsley School (now Rescue Mission on Pine St.) named for him.

**Third Mayor**



**John A. Sheldon**

**1895 JOHN A. SHELDON**  
(1839-1910)

Born in Troy, N.Y. — educated in private schools in New York — ill health prevented his planned entry to college — returned to West Rutland in 1854 where he became a clerk in the store of Sheldon, Morgan & Slason — achieved rank of Captain in Civil War — became treasurer of Sheldon Marble Company — firm Republican — town officer — alderman — LATER: Rutland postmaster, 1897-1910.

**1896 THOMAS H. BROWNE**

(1859-1931)

Born in Rutland — lawyer — alderman — **LATER:** Chinese Inspector for the Treasury Department under Presidents Cleveland and McKinley — prominent in state Democratic activities — National Democratic Committeeman, 1908-1912 — Referee in Bankruptcy — ardent sportsman.

**Fourth Mayor**



**Thomas H. Browne**

**Fifth Mayor**



**Percival W. Clement**

**1897-1898; 1911-1912**

**PERCIVAL W. CLEMENT**

(1846-1927)

Family came to Vermont in 1813 and to Rutland about 1842 — born in Rutland — attended St. Paul's School in Concord, N.H. — graduate of Trinity College, 1868 — partner in Clement & Son marble quarrying — organized Clement National Bank, 1882 — bought controlling interest in Rutland Railroad 1883, which he enlarged by shrewd business deals — purchased Rutland Herald, 1892 — represented Town of Rutland in legislature, 1892 — helped to secure Rutland City charter — **LATER:** senator from Rutland County, 1900 — ran for Governor of Vermont, 1902, 1906 — again mayor, 1911-1912 — Governor of Vermont, 1919.

**Sixth Mayor**



**William Y. W. Ripley**

**1899 WILLIAM Y. W. RIPLEY**

(1832-1905)

Educated at Troy Conference Academy in Poultney and Lima Institute, Lima, Ohio — Lieutenant Colonel in Civil War where he was wounded — won Medal of Honor — Major General of Vermont Home Guard — headed Ripley and Sons Marble Co. which later became part of Vermont Marble Co. — succeeded his father as President of Rutland County National Bank — active in Vermont game conservation — hunting and fishing enthusiast.

Seventh Mayor



John D. Spellman

1900 JOHN D. SPELLMAN

(1855-1927)

Born in West Rutland — lawyer — Rutland Grand Juror — staunch Democrat — in Customs Service in New York during President Cleveland's administration — LATER: moved to Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1915 where he died.

Eighth Mayor



J. Burton Hollister

1901 JOSIAH BURTON HOLLISTER

(1831-1907)

Born in Sandgate, Vt. — graduate of Burr and Burton Seminary and Dartmouth College — educator — state senator from Bennington County — leased and later bought Wheaton Marble Quarry which he later sold to Vermont Marble Co. — City Hall burned in 1901 and present building was built on same site during his administration.

Ninth Mayor



David W. Temple

1902-1903 DAVID WELLS TEMPLE

(1854-1930)

Born in Heath, Mass. — lived in Shelburne Falls, Mass. where he entered the marble trade — selectman in Shelburne Falls — came to Rutland, 1897 — founded Temple Brothers Marble Co. with his brother, J. C. Temple — Democrat — LATER: city assessor — owned farm on Creek Road.

**1904 JACK S. CARDER**

(1858-1937)

Born in Cornwall, England — marble worker — singer, violinist, oil painter — first mayor of Rutland from Labor Party — died in Pittsfield, Mass.

**Tenth Mayor**



**Jack S. Carder**

**Eleventh Mayor**



**J. Forest Manning**

**1905 JAMES FOREST MANNING**

(1862- ? )

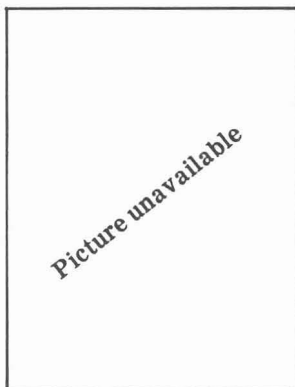
Born in Virginia — educated in common schools of Leesburg, Va. — marble dealer — President of Columbian Marble Quarrying Co. — LATER: director of Baxter National Bank — senator from Rutland County, 1906-1909.

**1906 CHARLES E. PAIGE**

(1860-1926)

Born in Barnard, Vt. — Rutland contractor who built Mead Building, the Masonic Temple and City Hall — considered one of best architects and builders in area — alderman — President of Board of Aldermen — Republican — LATER: moved to Covina, Calif., where he bought and operated an orange grove.

**Twelfth Mayor**



**Charles E. Paige**

**1907 ROLLIN L. RICHMOND**  
(1858-1941)

Born in Barnard, Vt. — attended Kimball Union Academy — graduated from State Normal School at Randolph, 1878 — druggist for 17 years — moved to Rutland, 1899 — district agent for Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. — LATER: director of three banks — Republican.

**Thirteenth Mayor**



**Rollin L. Richmond**

**Fourteenth Mayor**



**Henry O. Carpenter**

**1908-1910 HENRY O. CARPENTER**  
(1852-1936)

Came to Rutland in youth — proprietor of Hotel Bardwell — President of Rutland Village — Rutland County senator — LATER: director of Rutland Savings Bank, Killington Bank, and West Rutland Trust Company — President of Rutland Savings Bank — President of Killington Bank — prominent in development of City water system — gave 250 acres of land on Pine Hill to City — Long-time director of Rutland Fair.

**Fifteenth Mayor**

**1911-1912 PERCIVAL W. CLEMENT**  
(See 1897-1898)  
Resigned office in June 1912.

**Sixteenth Mayor**



**Charles L. Howe**

**1912 CHARLES L. HOWE**  
(1855-1937)

Born in Mt. Tabor, Vt. — studied law in Rutland — admitted to Bar, 1882 — graduated from New York College of Pharmacy — succeeded Percival W. Clement on June 9, 1912 — LATER: Alderman — City Court Magistrate, 1913-1914.

**1913-1914; 1917-1918 HENRY C. BRISLIN**  
(1875-1946)

Born and died in Rutland — station-master for Rutland Railroad for 24 years — member of Board of Education — alderman — LATER: member of the Vermont State Board of Arbitration under Governors Graham, Clement, Fletcher and Hartness — Rutland Commissioner of Public Safety — Postmaster of Rutland, 1934-1944.

**Seventeenth Mayor**



**Henry C. Brislin**

**Eighteenth Mayor**



**Bert L. Stafford**

**1915-1916 BERT L. STAFFORD**  
(1877-1941)

Born in Tinmouth — attended Rutland English and Classical Institute — graduated from Middlebury College, 1901 — went to Philippines with U.S. Teaching Service where he contracted malaria — admitted to Vermont State Bar, 1906 — LATER: Chairman of State Board of Education — Rutland County State's Attorney — President of Rutland County National Bank.

**Nineteenth Mayor**

**1917-1918 HENRY C. BRISLIN**  
(See 1913-1914)

**Twentieth Mayor**



**James C. Dunn**

**1919-1926 JAMES C. DUNN**  
(1868-1954)

Born and died in Rutland — plumber — Chief of Fire Department — Commissioner of Public Safety — director of Rutland Fair — motorized fire department — began permanent concrete road construction in Rutland — Rutland Memorial Armory and the River Street Viaduct were built during his administration — LATER: — retired.



**Twenty-first Mayor**



**Arthur W. Perkins**

**1927-1934 ARTHUR W. PERKINS**  
(1861-1935)

Born in East Middlebury — came to Rutland as a boy — was highly successful railroad newsboy — founded Rutland Fire Clay Co. with his father — President of Killington National Bank — selectman of Rutland Town — representative to state legislature, 1908 — city alderman — LATER: — retired.

**Twenty-second Mayor**



**Henry H. Branchaud**

**1935-1938 HENRY H. BRANCHAUD**  
(1861-1942)

Born and died in Rutland — worked at Howe Scale Co. — was mail clerk for 43 years — state senator — many Federal works projects for the city streets, sidewalks and sewers were carried out during his administration — emphasized improvements in city water supply — retired.

**Twenty-third Mayor**



**Henry B. Carpenter**

**1939-1942 HENRY B. CARPENTER**  
(1877-1952)

Born and died in Rutland — attended Rutland English and Classical Institute — connected with Carpenter's Bakery for 25 years — served 23 years as City Assessor — during his administration city started work on development of municipal airport and continued concrete highway, sidewalk and sewer development — state senator from Rutland County — LATER: Assistant Judge of Rutland County Court, 1948-1952.

1943-1949 WAYNE N. TEMPLE  
(1885-1949)

Born in Shelburne Falls, Mass. — father was mayor of Rutland, 1902-1903 — member of Temple Brothers Marble Co. — alderman for 13 years and president of the board for 5 years — served as mayor during World War II and flood of 1947 — first commercial air flights into Rutland began during his term of office — police and fire departments modernized — recreation program expanded — parking meters installed — new industries came to Rutland — suffered coronary thrombosis during campaign for fourth term — died September 12, 1949.

Twenty-fourth Mayor



Wayne N. Temple

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BOOK REVIEW

Andrea Mead Lawrence and Sara Burnaby. *A Practice of Mountains*. N.Y.: Seaview Books, 1980, 213 pp. illustrated. \$10.95

"I am working on a life-style that does not require my presence." Andrea Mead Lawrence quoted her mother, Janet, to emphasize a point in a chapter about danger and daring. The quotation reflects the style and abstraction utilized throughout the book. This is no biographical recitation of birth, school, athletic training, competition, victories and defeats, family and friends. Far removed from the simplistic portrayal of world class athletics, *A Practice of Mountains* lays bare the soul of the author, at her own insistence, and allows the reader to share in a historical and spiritual manner the joys of life, the exuberance of nature and the concentration of personal energy.

This no mere curriculum vitae. Instead, this book is a treatise on the complexity of the individual who happened to become the world's fastest woman skier. Had Andrea Mead Lawrence never touched a pair of skis, *A Practice of Mountains* would still be a powerful description of a person able to analyze and describe the forces that mold a person of outstanding achievement.

Andrea's love for the outdoors, be it a ski slope, a wind-swept mountain top, a quiet lake, a barren sea shore, permeates her work. The reader becomes enveloped in her cloak of enchantment, and soon, as the pages turn too swiftly, the reader finds the end approaching, as the realization of individual frailty and dignity unite with the equal frailty and dignity of our world's natural treasures. An enormous deep breath helps the reader fulfill the power of Andrea's message. She has let us see her love for reaching, searching for the extension of human resolve. She is powered by an internal energy of mind, training, body, and external forces that deserve our emulation. This is a deep, penetrating love story, a story that happens to be true and a love that engulfs our world and ourselves in it.

Kyran McGrath

Kyran McGrath is the author of *Woodstock Anthology* and operates The Inn at Long Trail overlooking the Pico Peak Ski Area, where Olympic Medalist Andrea Mead Lawrence learned to ski.

Charles T. Morrissey. *Vermont. A Bicentennial History*. New York: W. W. Norton, and Nashville: American Association for State and Local History. (1981) 235 pages. illustrated, indexed. \$12.95.

It should be no surprise that *Vermont*, one of 50 state histories published in connection with the two-hundredth anniversary of our nation, is written by a man closely identified with Vermont history, Charlie Morrissey.

*Vermont* comes along not quite 20 years after Dorothy Canfield Fisher's *Vermont Tradition*, but there is little of Fisher's sermons on the Green Mountains, and, certainly, none of her gushing over Ethan Allen. In four sections Morrissey looks at Vermont from differing viewpoints: firstly, Vermont as it is now; secondly, Vermont as a product of its history; thirdly, Vermont's heritage; and lastly, Vermont's prospects for the future. Throughout, runs the thread of Vermont's mystique — its unique contrariness.

Morrissey's roots are deepest in the oral history movement, and it shows in his appreciation of the off-beat comment or anecdote. But oral statements, if not researched, can prove embarrassing. His comments in fields in which the reviewer is knowledgeable show traits which he likes in the Rutland Herald — eminently readable but brashly inaccurate. To cite several: on page 18 he speaks of protruding nails on a shingle roof holding the snow — such a roof wouldn't hold water either; on page 178 he should know that no constitutional officer is elected annually; on page 21 he confuses tax rate with taxes; on page 106 his idea of the place of the beech tree in the ecology of the forest is just the opposite of accepted fact.

Most egregious is his reference on page 181 to Robert Frost's often misunderstood maxim — good fences make good neighbors. Frost did indeed pen these lines, but he had them issue forth from the flabby lips of his churlish neighbor who insisted on Frost's helping him mend stone walls decades after the cows had been replaced by wild apples and pine trees. Frost's moral is that good fences make bad neighbors.

But enough of the nit-picking. Morrissey downplays Ethan Allen and gives due to one of Vermont's almost forgotten men, George Perkins Marsh, who was one of the early conservationists. Morrissey bemoans Vermont's prodigality in giving so freely of her best — first, during the Civil War and, later, in the great migrations when the West's cheap land beckoned. Although Vermont's loss was the nation's gain, in the long-run, Vermont benefited, for many of the men she lost made this country a better place. In the same manner, Vermont was liberal and free in her use of her resources. At the peak of agricultural development, almost two-thirds of her forests had been cut to make grazing grounds for her sheep and cows. Today, Vermont is about two-thirds forested. Those who bemoan the highway-centered development of urban sprawl should take heart that the thousands of acres of blacktop, if not maintained, will revert to forest in a span of several decades.

In a local or parochial view, one bemoans the absence of such Vermonters as Lemuel Haynes, Julia Dorr, Anthony Haswell and Orestes Brownson. Even the Reverend Samuel Williams and Matthew Lyons are mentioned only in passing.

*Vermont* is certainly not a book of information. But as a thought-provoking series of essays on what Vermont was, is, and might be, it deserves a place on the shelves of anyone who is concerned about the welfare of our state.

**F.P.E.**

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**CREDITS:** p. 17 Thomas K. Egan; p. 19 J.A.M., J.A.S., p. 20 P.W.C., G. Grenville Benedict, *Men of Progress*; p. 20 T.H.B., p. 21 J.D.S., p. 23 C.L.H., p. 24 B.L.S. County of Rutland; p. 20 W.Y.W.R., Rutland Historical Society; p. 21 J.B.H. Vermont Historical Society; p. 21 D.W.T., Carroll T. Jones; p. 22 J.S.C., Rutland Historical Society; *Expansion* Vol. 1 No. 9 cover; p. 22 J.F.M., *The Vermonter* Vol. XII p. 270; p. 19 L.G.K., p. 23 H.O.C., p. 24 J.C.D., p. 26 W.N.T., *Rutland Daily Herald*; p. 24 H.C.B., William W. Brislin; p. 25 A.W.P., Vera A. Perkins; p. 25 H.H.B., Robert H. Branchaud; p. 25 H.B.C., Robert H. Carpenter.

**RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
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The Rutland Historical Society was founded in 1969 to preserve, study and disseminate the history of the original Town of Rutland as chartered by New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth in 1761, now comprised of the City of Rutland and the Towns of Proctor, Rutland and West Rutland. The Society maintains and operates The Rutland Museum in the historic Bank of Rutland building built in 1825, now owned by the City of Rutland, and The Rutland Farm and Rural Life Museum at the Vermont State Fair. A research library and the historical collections are maintained in the Museum. Gifts or bequests of articles of historical interest or money are welcome at all times and are deductible for income tax purposes.

The Society publishes the Rutland Historical Society Quarterly for the members and presents public historical programs throughout the year at the Rutland Free Library in the Nella Grimm Fox Room.

Membership in the Society is open to all upon payment of dues to the Membership Secretary, Hope E. Hubbard, 248 Lincoln Avenue, Rutland, Vermont 05701. Membership entitles each member to a subscription to four issues each year of the Quarterly, the right to vote at business meetings and the benefits of supporting the Museums, monthly programs, library and collections. Dues are \$3.00 a year for regular members; for those wishing to give the Society further support a contributing membership is \$10.00; a sponsor membership is \$25.00; a sustaining membership is \$100.00; and a life membership (one payment only) is \$75.00. Members wishing to pay two or more years' dues in advance are encouraged to do so to reduce costs. The expiration date of each membership is listed on the mailing label of the publication. Please send change of address on Postal Service Form 3576.

Manuscripts are invited; address correspondence to the Editor.

**Editor: Michael L. Austin**  
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